

## Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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FOR ATHERTON

FOL RPT USUN 592 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO DAMASCUS

TEL AVIV 17 FEB.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET REPLY TO SECRETARY GENERAL'S LETTER ON MIDDLE  
EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

REF: USUN 300 (NOTAL)

1. SECRETARIAT HAS GIVEN US COPY OF USSR REPLY TO WALDHEIM'S  
LETTER OF JANUARY 27 CONCERNING THE NEED TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD  
A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. USYG GUYER TOLD AMBASSADOR  
BENNETT (PER BENNETT/TOUSSAINT TELCON) THAT SECRETARIAT  
INTENDED TO CIRCULATE SOVIET REPLY TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 18, UNLESS  
US PLANNED TO REPLY BY FEBRUARY 18. IN THAT CASE, UN WOULD  
CIRCULATE BOTH LETTERS TOGETHER THE FOLLOWING DAY.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S LETTER TO SECRETARY-  
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GENERAL, DATED FEBRUARY 12:

QUOTE

DISTINGUISHED MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
YOUR MESSAGE TO THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE  
ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE  
DISCUSSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS  
BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. YOUR INITIATIVE IS DULY  
APPRECIATED IN MOSCOW AND WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN AT THE  
PERSISTING TENSION IN THE AREA OF MIDDLE EAST DANGEROUS FOR  
CAUSE OF PEACE. IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT THAT THE CONTINUING  
OCCUPATION BY ISRAEL OF THE ARAB TERRITORIES, ITS DISREGARD  
OF THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF  
PALESTINE REMAIN FRAUGHT WITH THREAT OF NEW MILITARY EXPLOSION,  
THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH MAY SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE WHOLE INTERNA-  
TIONAL  
SITUATION. SUCH A COURSE WOULD CORRESPOND ONLY THE INTERESTS OF  
THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO USE THE LACK OF SETTLEMENT OF THE  
MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND ABSENCE OF LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA  
FOR THEIR NARROW PURPOSES.

THE FACT THAT ISRAEL AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT CONTINUE  
STRIVING TO KEEP THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST SE-  
TTLEMENT DEADLOCKED CANNOT BUT CAUSE CONCERN. THE RESULTS  
OF THE RECENT CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION IN THE UN  
SECURITY COUNCIL TESTIFY PRECISELY TO THIS EFFECT. THIS  
ORGAN COULD NOT COME TO A DECISION BECAUSE OF THE POSITION  
OF ONE OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THOUGHT  
THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS DEFINITELY SPOKE  
OUT IN FAVOUR OF THE CONCRETE MEASURES FOR BRINGING ABOUT  
A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL UN MEMBERS,  
WITH A VERY SMALL EXCEPTION, CLEARLY EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION  
THAT GENUINE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT  
WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM ALL THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED  
BY ISRAEL IN 1967, WITHOUT SAFEGUARDING INALIENABLE NATIONAL  
RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND INSURING THE RIGHT  
OF ALL STATES OF THE REGION TO INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND  
DEVELOPMENT.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION AROUND THE PROBLEM OF THE  
MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS  
NO OTHER RELIABLE WAY TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS ON ALL THE QUESTIONS  
OF THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT BUT THE RESUMPTION OF THE  
WORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE - THE INTERNATIONAL  
FORUM SPECIALLY CREATED FOR THESE PURPOSES. SUCH A CONFERENCE  
SHOULD NO DOUBT BE WELL PREPARED AND ALL THE PARTIES DIRECTLY  
CONCERNED INCLUDING THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

AS WELL AS THE USSR AND THE USA AS THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE  
CONFERENCE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN ITS WORK.

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION  
OF THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE NOT A FORUM OF BUSINESS-LIKE  
NEGOTIATIONS BUT A CAMOUFLAGE AIMED AT CREATING  
SEMBLANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I BELIEVE YOU AGREE THAT SUCH A TURN  
OF EVENTS WOULD DO ONLY HARM SINCE THE LACK OF PROGRESS WOULD  
LEAD TO A FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST AND AROUND IT.

THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAMPER THE CAUSE

OF CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, ASSUME UPON THEMSELVES THE  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A POLICY.

THE UNITED NATIONS WITH ITS HIGH INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE CAN  
AND SHOULD SAY ITS WEIGHTY WORD ON THE ISSUES OF THE ES-  
TABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. YOU MAY  
REST ASSURED, MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, THAT THE SOVIET UNION,  
ON ITS PART, WILL AS BEFORE DO ALL IN ITS POWER FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT  
OF  
THIS GOAL. SUCH IS THE POSITION OF PRINCIPLE OF THE USSR  
AND IT WILL FIRMLY ADHERE TO IT.

A. GROMYKO

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR

12 FEBRUARY 1976

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MOYNIHAN

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